

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE BY
DEPUTY S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st JULY 2008

Question

“Can the Minister provide in a simple spreadsheet, the number of visitors to Elizabeth Castle between 2003 and 2007 that were carried by Puddle Ducks Limited and by Pure Adventure Limited, including late evening functions at the Castle?”

Answer

Prior to 2007, the amphibious vehicle service between West Park and Elizabeth Castle was a privately operated service. Data relating to that service is, therefore, held by the operator who elected to withdraw on economic grounds in 2006. What can be said, however, is that between 2003 and 2006 general admissions to the Castle declined from 48,728 to 41,056.

In 2007 the Jersey Heritage Trust, in recognition of the failure of the market to sustain this service, provided a subsidy in part-return for ticket income from the route. Consequently, the Trust is able to give the total carried by the amphibious vehicles in 2007 which was 18,902. Delays in introducing the service and operating difficulties during the season contributed to this disappointing figure, and to the Jersey Heritage Trust's decision both to obtain compensation from the operator in 2007 and subsequently to take on the running of the service itself.